

In off goal beats Blues

Hendon 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0

A GOAL scored against the run of play after 12 minutes, robbed Wycombe Wanderers of the Isthmian League points at Hendon on Saturday. And it was an own goal too.

An inswinging corner from Sewell went in off keeper John Maskell at the near post.

Butler nearly increased the Hendon lead 10 minutes later. At the other end Allan Phillips had a header headed off the line, while Steve Long shot wide.

The standard of play did not improve in the second half.

Defences were on top, but Birdseye had a cross scrambled away at Hendon while a shot from Davies struck at least three people before hitting Steel and flying over the bar.

Wycombe fell away before the end and Brooker missed the chance of a lifetime for Hendon from three yards

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WYCOMBE Wanderers got no Isthmian League comfort from their Saturday visit to Hendon, over whom they had an easy victory earlier in the season, at Loakes Park. Wanderers' supporters expected at least a share of the points. But in the event a solitary goal, homing in from a deflection, gave the day to Hendon.

Wycombe dominated the game territorially. Once more, however, they lacked ideas in front of goal and they failed to capitalise on Hendon's defensive lapses. The Blues attacked from the start and early on Steel had to dive bravely at Micky Hollifield's feet, and then Stewart Atkins, unmarked in front of goal, needed too much time.

The Wycombe attack lacked cohesion and Hendon, though under greater pressure, looked the more dangerous on the break. It was against the run of play when Hendon got the all-important goal, in the 12th minute. Sewell's inswinging corner went in off John Maskell. Ten minutes later Butler, a tall centre-forward

with an uncompromising style, hit the bar with a powerful shot.

Allan Phillips had a header cleared off the line. Second half chances were few and the match did little to warm the shivering spectators. Again the Blues had territorial superiority but they engineered only the odd opening or two. And it was Hendon who came more into the game in the later stages, Brooker missing a simple chance in the 75th minute, when he was on his own three yards from goal.

Wycombe's display target-wise was disappointing after their recent games and supporters will be looking for something better when the Wanderers meet old rivals

Oxford City at Loakes Park on Boxing Day.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, B. Davies, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, H. Kennedy, S. Hardwick, M. Hollifield, S. Atkins, T. Scott, S. Long (sub D. Evans).

HENDON: G. Steel, M. Cooper, G. Hand, A. Roughan, A. Campbell, R. Haider, R. O'Callaghan, J. Steer, R. Butler, G. Brooks, G. Sewell (sub M. Garrini). Neither substitute was used.